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Good Idea to Think About -- Field-work time isn't far off and here's a really worthwhile suggestion from a University of Minnesota agronomist. A. R. Schmid says that if you're seeding brome grass by mixing it with oats and drilling it in, it's wise to cultipack ahead of the drill to prevent too deep a brome seeding -- also set the drill fairly shallow. Cultipacking prevents the drill from sinking too deep and also gives a firm seedbed most desirable for starting young legume and grass stands. And, in buying a pasture mixture, buy a southern brome such as Lincoln, Achenbach or Fisher. They are winter-hardy and more productive than Canadian types. The southerners also develop more grass and thus help prevent bloat.

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Here's How Silting Damages -- A startling example of silting was discovered recently in a very level area of the South Wabasha County Soil Conservation District. Seems a bridge built some years ago had, some believed, been put in the wrong place. The water didn't run under the bridge, but over a road farther along. Instead of moving the bridge, the contractor dug out the old channel underneath and found good black dirt seven feet deep! Topsoil had been carried off those level fields and laid down in the creek bed. Proves we need erosion control on level areas, too.

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How to Handle Surplus Hay -- Lawrence O'Brien, a young Dodge County Soil Conservation District farmer, contour strip-crops a rough 80. In a good hay year, he usually has too much. By the time his second hay crop rolls around, he cuts his first-year hay. If he has enough, he plows under the second-year second crop for green manure. Thus, he avoids harvesting expense. He also increases his corn yields 10 to 15 bushels per acre on land on his plan. That's one way of putting fertility back in the ground and eliminating a surplus problem.

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Woodlot Shrinkage Preventable -- A woodlot "shrinks" because there aren't enough young high-grade trees to produce well in a productive woodlot, also because grazing animals pack-trample the ground so hard moisture can't percolate through. Be careful in grazing animals--don't let them into a young shelterbelt, and a woodlot. It can be sure death to a young shelterbelt and mean far lower profits from a woodlot. This suggestion comes from Parker Anderson, Extension Forester at the University of Minnesota.